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Claims

1. Use of a cortisol antagonist in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of heart failure.
2. A use as claimed in claim 1 wherein the heart failure is categorised as congestive, diastolic, low-output or right-sided heart failure.
3. A use as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the cortisol antagonist is an inhibitor of cortisol synthesis.
4. A use as claimed in claim 3 wherein the inhibitor of cortisol synthesis is ketoconazole or a derivative thereof.
5. A use as claimed in claim 4 wherein the cortisol synthesis inhibitor is the Cis-2S,4R and/or the Cis-2R,4S isomer of ketoconazole.
6. A use as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the medicament is for use in the treatment of enlargement of the heart or a fibrosis in the heart muscle.
7. Use of a cortisol antagonist in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of one or more symptoms associated with heart failure selected from the group comprising, oedema of lower limbs, pulmonary oedema, dyspnea, liver enlargement, increased heart rate, reduced stroke volume, shortness of breath and exercise intolerance.
8. A use as claimed in claim 7 wherein the medicament is for use in the treatment of pulmonary oedema.

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9. A use as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the daily dose of the cortisol antagonist to a patient being treated is 100-1200 mg.

10. A method of treating heart failure in a mammal which method comprises administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a cortisol antagonist to said mammal.

11. A method of treating one or more symptoms associated with heart failure selected from the group comprising, oedema of lower limbs, pulmonary oedema, dyspnea, liver enlargement, increased heart rate, reduced stroke volume, shortness of breath and exercise intolerance in a mammal which method comprises administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a cortisol antagonist to said mammal.

12. A product containing (a) a cortisol antagonist and (b) a second drug as a combined preparation for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in the treatment of heart failure or in improving cardiac function and reducing exercise intolerance.

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